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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 1, 2021

Cultural Humility vs Cultural Competence

Grace to you and peace! I was in a recent conversation about Cultural Humility vs Cultural Competence. You may be familiar with this distinction. The latter is based on the idea that we can learn about another culture and can become knowledgeable and competent. Cultural Humility is recognizing that we cannot know everything about another culture and requires life-long learning.

We often think of culture as an ethnic or racial culture. However, we all exist in many cultures or social groups. Such groups have their own sets of norms, customs, and understandings. Such cultures may reflect race, ethnicity, geography, age, straight/LGBTQ identity, political party, urban/rural settings, and many more.

We can learn about some aspects of different cultures such as language, food, festivals, music and dances. But there are deeper aspects of cultures that are more subtle – body language, concepts of fairness and justice, attitudes toward authority, approaches to decision-making, communication styles, etc.

Cultural humility requires life-long learning as well as critical self-reflection. It requires asking questions of others to understand their perspective and not assume that we know what it is. It also means recognizing and challenging power imbalances in order to create respect for other cultures. Cultural humility challenges our tendency toward stereotypes.

Given the diversity of the Southeast Conference and acknowledging that



many of us have actually moved from other parts of the country (or Conference), approaching each other with a sense of cultural humility will deepen our relationships and strengthen the ministry we do together. A key element to remember is that it requires openness to life-long learning – which is both rewarding and exciting since we are all created in the image of God!

Blessings, Char Burch

News from the Conference Office

From the Generosity Coordinator

Hebrews 13:16 teaches: “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to GOD.”

A huge note of thanks to all who continue to support this conference in all the many ways that you do. Your generous contributions continue to allow us to serve and remain viable as this Southeast Conference United Church of Christ.

Your first quarter 2021 giving statements have been sent... Please feel free to reach out to me directly should there be questions or concerns.

Again, THANK YOU for your support. We are so GRATEFUL for all of your gifts. We all look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting. PLEASE make plans to attend. You don't want to miss this one. Continue to visit our SECUCC website for details.

Peace and blessings, as we continue to JOURNEY, TOGETHER.

Blessings,
Min. Carrole



Ordination of Haley Lerner

You are invited to the ordination of Haley Lerner on May 16, 2021 at 5:00 pm at Kirkwood United Church of Christ in Atlanta. Haley's ordination will be part of Kirkwood UCC's 5 pm worship service which will be an outdoor in-person service as well as being on Zoom and Facebook Live. Haley serves as a Campus Minister at the Presbyterian Student Center at the University of Georgia. [More details and the link to register is on our website.](#)



Ecclesiastical Council for Tyler Ung

You Are Invited to Attend the Ecclesiastical Council (EC) for Tyler Ung Monday, May 10, 2021 at 5:00 pm Eastern. ECs are the last step in the process for both Members in Discernment and for Ministers transferring their credentials to the United Church of Christ from another denomination called the Privilege of Call. As part of the EC, you, members of the Southeast Conference, will have the opportunity to listen to the work of the Spirit and vote to ordain Tyler Ung. [More details on our website.](#)



**Southeast Conference UCC
& Kirkwood UCC**
-PRESENT-
JUNETEENTH
A Virtual Presentation
June 17, 7pm EDT



Bishop Yvette Flunder
City of Refuge UCC,
Oakland, California

Join us for this special presentation. [Register Online Here.](#)

Annual Meeting Registration is OPEN!

Registration is now OPEN! Check the [Conference website](#) for details and to [register online](#).

Participate in creating the worship experience

We invite you to send videos that have someone from your church saying, "We praise you, Re-Creating God." You can also send video clips or pictures of members of your congregation involved in mission or justice projects this past year.

Advertise your church

Celebrate an event, honor your pastors, etc. during Annual Meeting. Rates and more details are available on the [website](#). *Deadline May 20!!!*

Assist with the technology

Seeking individuals to assist by serving as a Tech Steward for a Zoom workshop on Saturday morning or during the Business session Saturday



afternoon.

The Tentative Schedule is on the [Annual Meeting website](#).

#sechealingforward, #secuccam, #secucc

Personal OCWM Thank You Videos

The Certificates for 2020 giving to Our Church's Wider Mission and "5 for 5" Support for additional UCC Special Offerings have been mailed to churches. Thank you for your investment in the life of the Conference! If you would like a personal video "thank you" to be pre-recorded for your worship service or if you would like a live "thank you" via zoom during a virtual worship service, please contact either Rev. Char Burch (cburch@secucc.org) or Min. Carrole Moss (cmoss@secucc.org). Again, thank you for being part of the Southeast Conference!

Re-Opening of Churches – Conversation for all Church Leaders

- **Monday, May 24, 7 pm Eastern/6 pm Central**

With more people being vaccinated and some churches making plans for outdoor services, questions are being asked about how soon churches might return to in-person worship and what current practices need to be maintained into the future. We invite all Moderators, Church Leaders, and Clergy to be part of the conversation. [REGISTER](#)

Clergy Zoom Connections for May

- **An Hour of Conversations and Prayer**

Tuesday, May 4, 11, 18, 25 - 11:00 a.m. Eastern (10:00 a.m. Central); Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/479440102>

- **Live Harp Meditations for Ministers**

Thursday, May 20 - 12:00 p.m. Eastern (11:00 Central)
20 minutes of meditation with Celtic harp. Silent prayer and reflection following if desired, facilitated by Rev. Jean Norton. (For questions or to sign up for individual Therapeutic Harp Sessions, contact Jean at HeartSongJean@gmail.com.)
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96976838422>

- **Especially for Specialized Ministers**

Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 9:30 a.m. Eastern (8:30 a.m. Central)

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/354744689>



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2021. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

Week of May 2

- Rush Memorial Congregational UCC; Atlanta, Georgia
- Mercy Packer-Monroe
- Patricia Hough
- Annette Nielsen
- Lisa Stewart
- Scott Cox

Week of May 9

- Phoenix Christian Church; Wildersville, Tennessee
- LaCretia Bellamy
- Marcia Free
- Warner Noles
- Andy Sidden
- Katharine Toledano

Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Savannah GA; Trinity Congregational, Athens AL; Rush Memorial, Atlanta GA; United Church of Cookeville, Cookeville TN

News from the Wider Church



Support new Faith Communities in the Southeast Conference!

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. Nationally, the funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Within the Southeast Conference, this year's dollars will support our new Faith Communities! By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. Order resources at no cost: <https://www.uccresources.com/products/strengthen-the-church-offering-2021>. The offering is often taken on Pentecost: May 23.

Trainings and Conferences



Convergence Presents: Courageous Church Summit

May 10-14 – 22 speakers

Faith leaders stand at a crossroads in North America today. As people of faith and moral consciousness, we can either sit idly by and allow hate, greed, and fear to define us or we can channel the heart of our tradition and speak truth to greedy power, love to angry hate, and hope to unfounded fear. The Courageous Church Summit provides a critical look at where we are now and how we get to a more sustainable and equitable future. Through interviews with influential North American faith leaders in activist-oriented congregations, the Courageous Church Summit equips virtual leaders with the audacity, connections, and practical advice to be active leaders in an emerging movement for change. For details and to register - <https://convergencesummit.online/>

Healthy Boundaries for Retired Ministers to be Offered!

Retired ministers who do not serve as pastors in a local church, but who would like to preach periodically, officiate at weddings, funerals, etc. now have the option to attend this special Healthy Boundaries Course focused on issues faced by retired ministers. Courses will be offered this summer and in the fall. Watch for more details and registration information.

Save the Date for Retired Servants Retreat

October 11-13, 2021

Blowing Rock Conference Center

Retreat facilitator: Rev. Randall Mishoe (D.Min.)

Plans are underway for UCC Retired Servants to meet in person at Blowing

Rock Conference Center for their 2021 retreat on October 11-13, after cancelling the event in 2020 because of COVID-19. Rev. Randall Mishoe will be the keynote presenter, and is planning to use a book by Morton Kelsey: *Dreams: A Way to Listen to God*, which we will purchased for those who register for the retreat. Watch for additional details in forthcoming weeks.

UCC Southern Regional Women's Retreat

(Southeast, Southern, South Central, and Florida Conferences)

Virtually on Zoom – October 2, 2021; 1-4 pm EDT

Plan ahead for the In-Person Retreat – October 14-16, 2022 at Camp Weed and Cerveney Conference Center; 11057 Camp Weed Place; Live Oak, Florida 32060

Hosted by the Florida UCC Women

www.facebook.com/2021UCCSouthernRegionalWomenRetreat



Interfaith Environmental Justice Classes Begin May 10th

The interdisciplinary and interfaith approach utilized in this six-week class will provide you with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes you will need as global citizens and as members of various faiths or followers of various philosophies to make informed, evidence-based decisions with respect to environmental justice dilemmas. [Contact Michael Malcom](#) for more info.

Conference Calendar

May 4 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

May 10 @ 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm EDT

[Ecclesiastical Council for Tyler Ung](#)

May 11 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

May 16 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm EDT

[Ordination of Haley Lerner](#)

May 18 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

May 20 @ 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm EDT

[Live Harp Meditations for Ministers](#)

May 20 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT

[Commission on Ministry Meeting](#)

May 24 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EDT

[Re-Opening of Churches – Conversation for all Church Leaders](#)

May 25 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

View the **full calendar** of events online: <https://www.secucc.org/events/>

Contact Us

Conference Minister: **Rev. Char Burch**; cburch@secucc.org

Assoc. Conf. Minister: **Rev. Heather Fosburgh**; hfosburgh@secucc.org

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